

Extended Magnetic Dome Induced by Low Pressures in Superconducting $\text{FeSe}_{1-x}\text{S}_x$

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We report muon spin rotation and magnetization measurements under pressure on $\text{Fe}_{1+\delta}\text{Se}_{1-x}\text{S}_x$ with $x \approx 0.11$. Above $p \approx 0.6$ GPa we find a microscopic coexistence of superconductivity with an extended dome of long range magnetic order that spans a pressure range between previously reported separated magnetic phases. The magnetism initially competes on an atomic scale with the coexisting superconductivity leading to a local maximum and minimum of the superconducting $T_c(p)$. The maximum of T_c corresponds to the onset of magnetism while the minimum coincides with the pressure of strongest competition. A shift of the maximum of $T_c(p)$ for a series of single crystals with x up to 0.14 roughly extrapolates to a putative magnetic and superconducting state at ambient pressure for $x \geq 0.2$.

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Unconventional superconductivity is usually obtained by suppressing a long range static magnetic order present in the parent compound. The suppression can be achieved via chemical doping or by application of pressure [1]. This is, e.g., the case for cuprate [2] and iron based superconductors [3,4] as well as for heavy fermion [3,5] and organic superconductors [6]. In iron pnictide compounds, the magnetic order is usually accompanied by a structural transition from a high temperature tetragonal to a low temperature orthorhombic phase [7]. Surprisingly, the structurally simplest iron based superconductor FeSe is nonmagnetic at ambient pressure but exhibits a structural phase transition which is associated with nematic order [8–12]. Under hydrostatic pressure, the nematic order is however suppressed, magnetic order emerges above 0.9 GPa and the superconducting transition temperature T_c increases from ~ 8 K to ~ 37 K at ~ 7 GPa [11–19]. Despite the structural simplicity, the electronic properties of FeSe are highly nontrivial with reported Lifshitz transitions of the Fermi surface as a function of temperature [20], pressure [21,22], and S substitution [23]. This rich phase diagram led to still ongoing discussions about the interplay of magnetism and nematicity and their respective influence on superconductivity [7].

In recent years, S substitution has come into focus as an additional tuning parameter for FeSe. The nematically ordered phase of $\text{FeSe}_{1-x}\text{S}_x$ is suppressed with increasing sulfur content and is no longer present for $x > 0.17$ [24–27] where a nematic quantum critical point [28], a topological

Lifshitz transition [23], a reduction in electronic correlations [29], and a change in the superconducting pairing state [30] and gap structure [31] are observed. Under high hydrostatic pressures, T_c of $\text{FeSe}_{1-x}\text{S}_x$ exhibits a similarly dramatic increase as observed in FeSe [24,32,33]. Matsuura *et al.* [33] report that the magnetic dome observed in FeSe above 0.9 GPa [13,14] is still present but is shifted to higher pressures with increasing S content. Yip *et al.* [34] report a local maximum in T_c at low pressures and a significant weakening of the superconducting diamagnetic shielding that coincides with the verge of the high pressure magnetic dome. Xiang *et al.* [35] conclude from resistivity measurements the onset of an additional small magnetic dome at low pressures at the local maximum in T_c . Combining the above results from bulk technique measurements leads to the picture of two well separated magnetic domes in the temperature-pressure phase diagram of $\text{FeSe}_{1-x}\text{S}_x$ which increasingly separate for higher x [33,35]. However, local probe muon spin rotation and relaxation (μ SR) measurements, which played a fundamental role in establishing the phase diagram of FeSe under pressure [13,14], are missing so far.

In this Letter we present a study of the magnetic and superconducting properties of $\text{FeSe}_{1-x}\text{S}_x$ under hydrostatic pressures up to 2.3 GPa using a combination of muon spin rotation and relaxation (μ SR) [36], ac-susceptibility (ACS) and dc-magnetization measurements. It is found that $\text{Fe}_{1+\delta}\text{Se}_{1-x}\text{S}_x$ with an average $x = 0.11$ exhibits long range

magnetic order above 0.6 GPa with a transition temperature T_N larger than the superconducting transition temperature T_c . This magnetic dome is much more extended than the one previously reported for small pressures [35] and probably spans all the way to the high pressure magnetic phase [33]. The magnetic order initially competes with the microscopically coexisting superconducting phase leading to a local maximum and minimum of $T_c(p)$. dc-magnetization measurements on a series of $\text{FeSe}_{1-x}\text{S}_x$ single crystals with x up to 0.14 show that the maximum of T_c is shifted to lower pressures for increasing sulfur content. This suggests the possibility of magnetism and superconductivity coexisting at ambient pressure for a sample with $x \geq 0.2$.

Five batches of superconducting iron rich $\text{Fe}_{1+\delta}\text{Se}_{1-x}\text{S}_x$ with sulfur content ranging between $x = 0.07$ and 0.14 ($x = 0.11$ mass weighted average) were grown using the vapor-transport technique [37,38]. The batches were powdered and mixed in order to get the minimal sample mass of 1 g required for μSR measurements under pressure. dc-magnetization measurements were performed on four different batches of high quality $\text{FeSe}_{1-x}\text{S}_x$ single crystals with well-defined $x = 0, 0.05, 0.09$, and 0.14 synthesized and characterized following Ref. [39]. μSR measurements were performed at the Swiss Muon Source $\text{S}\mu\text{S}$ [40,41]. The data were analyzed with the free software package MUSRFIT [42]. dc-magnetization measurements were performed using a commercial superconducting quantum interference device (SQUID) magnetometer. Hydrostatic pressure for the μSR and ACS measurements was applied using double-wall piston cells developed and regularly used at $\text{S}\mu\text{S}$ [13,14,41,43,44]. A commercial CuBe piston cell was used for dc-magnetization measurements. Pressures were determined by either In or Sn manometers and Daphne 7373 oil was used as the pressure transmitting medium.

The magnetic properties of the $\text{Fe}_{1+\delta}\text{Se}_{1-x}\text{S}_x$ sample under hydrostatic pressure were determined with zero-field (ZF) and 5 mT transverse-field (TF) μSR . Representative ZF muon spin polarization spectra $P(t)$ are shown in Figs. 1(a) and 1(b) for different pressures p and temperatures T . At $p = 0.6$ GPa, the onset of spontaneous muon spin precession can be observed below $T_N \approx 15$ K, which is a clear sign for the emergence of long range magnetic order. The precession frequency is related to the internal magnetic field at the muon stopping site by $\omega_{\text{osc}} = \gamma_{\mu} B_{\text{int}}$, where $\gamma_{\mu} = 2\pi \times 135.5 \text{ MHz T}^{-1}$ is the muon's gyromagnetic ratio. A measurement at $p = 0.4$ GPa (not shown) does not show any sign of magnetic order. A quantitative analysis as detailed in the Supplemental Material [38] allows extracting the magnetic volume fraction f_m and the internal magnetic field B_{int} at the muon stopping site. B_{int} is proportional to the local ordered magnetic moment (on the Fe atom) and is therefore a measure for the magnetic order parameter. Note that this local probe measurement is therefore qualitatively different from a scattering technique

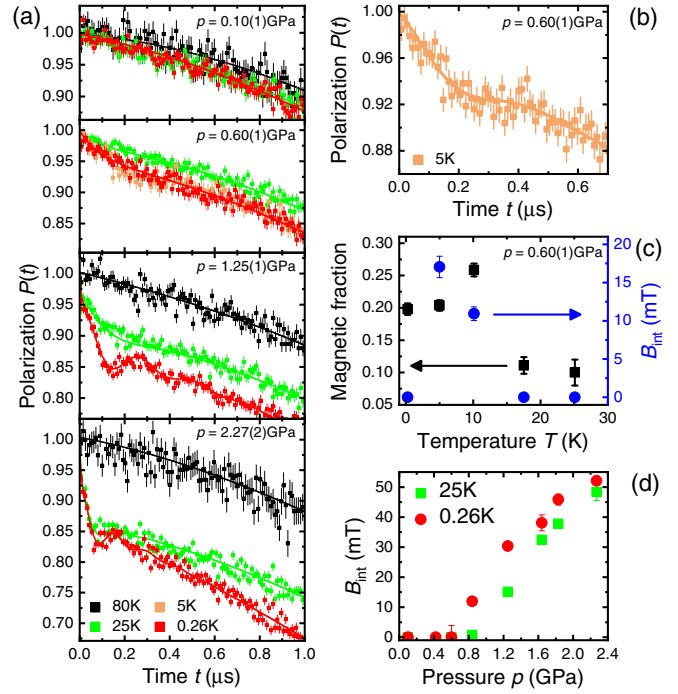


FIG. 1. (a), (b) Representative zero-field μSR spectra of $\text{Fe}_{1+\delta}\text{Se}_{1-x}\text{S}_x$ with a mass weighted average $x = 0.11$ for various pressures and temperatures. The oscillations appearing for pressures above 0.6 GPa indicate the emergence of long range magnetic order. The solid lines are fits using the model detailed in the Supplemental Material [38]. (c) Magnetic fraction f_m and internal field B_{int} at the muon stopping site as a function of temperature at 0.6 GPa. The reduction of both quantities towards lower temperatures is due to the coexistence and competition on an atomic scale between the superconducting and the magnetic order. (d) Evolution with pressure of the internal field at 0.26 and 25 K. B_{int} is proportional to the local ordered magnetic moment.

where only the product of magnetic moment and volume can be measured. Interestingly, the locally measured ordered magnetic moment and the magnetic volume fraction do not increase monotonically with decreasing temperature at 0.6 GPa [Fig. 1(c)]. They reach a maximum between 5 and 10 K and then decrease again towards lower temperatures. A reduction of the ordered magnetic moment size below T_c was already observed by μSR for FeSe [13,14] and by μSR and Moessbauer spectroscopy for other iron based superconductors [45–49]. This is a well established hallmark for a coexistence and competition on an atomic scale. In other words, the ordered magnetic moment of $\text{FeSe}_{1-x}\text{S}_x$ is reduced below T_c when magnetism and superconductivity compete for the same electronic states in momentum space. Further, in some part of the sample the superconducting order obviously completely suppresses the magnetic order. This results in a reduction of the magnetic volume fraction below T_c , in analogy to FeSe [Fig. 1(c)]. The evolution of B_{int} with pressure is summarized in Fig. 1(d) for 0.26 and 25 K. Compared to FeSe, B_{int} is approximately 15% smaller at the highest pressure although the magnetic order sets in at a

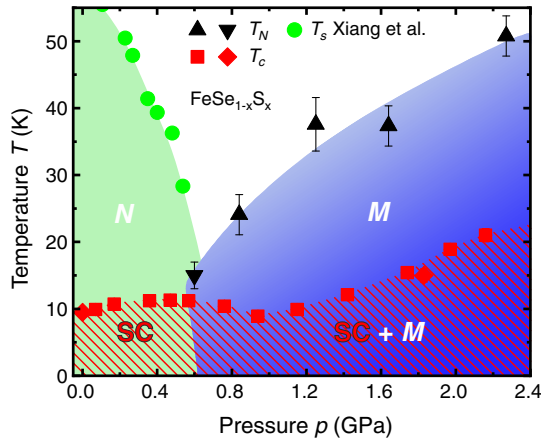


FIG. 2. Temperature-pressure phase diagram of $\text{Fe}_{1+\delta}\text{Se}_{1-x}\text{S}_x$ with a mass weighted average $x = 0.11$. The structural transition temperatures T_s indicating the nematic order (N) are taken from Ref. [35] for a $\text{FeSe}_{1-x}\text{S}_x$ sample with $x = 0.096$. The magnetic onset temperature T_N was determined by 5 mT transverse-field (up facing black triangles) and zero-field (down facing black triangle) μSR . The superconducting onset temperature T_c was measured by ac-susceptibility (red squares) and 30 mT transverse-field μSR (red diamonds). At 0.6 GPa, long range magnetic order (M) sets in. The competition on an atomic scale between the magnetic and the coexisting superconducting phase ($\text{SC} + M$) at the onset of magnetism leads to a local maximum and minimum in T_c .

lower pressure [14]. The magnetic fraction f_m increases to $\sim 65\%$ for the highest pressure currently reachable with μSR . To determine the magnetic transition temperature T_N as a function of pressure, 5 mT TF μSR was employed [38]. The result is shown in Fig. 2. Our data indicate that a local magnetic probe such as μSR observes a much more extended magnetic dome compared to the small dome previously reported at low pressures [35]. The dome reported here is likely to span the full pressure range up to the high pressure magnetic phase at $p \approx 4$ GPa [33].

The superconducting properties of $\text{Fe}_{1+\delta}\text{Se}_{1-x}\text{S}_x$ were investigated using TF μSR , ACS, and dc-magnetization measurements under pressure. At ambient pressure, reported values of the magnetic penetration depth λ obtained via the lower critical field H_{c1} show a decrease of the superfluid density $n_s \propto \lambda^{-2}$ for increasing x despite the increase in T_c [50,51]. This is explained with the merging of two superconducting gaps [50,52]. Scanning tunneling microscopy and spectroscopy measurements further emphasize the importance of the multiband character of $\text{FeSe}_{1-x}\text{S}_x$ [52,53]. Using a two-band model to fit our μSR relaxation rates [36,54,55] for different fields at 0.26 K and ambient pressure [38] gives an estimated penetration depth value that is comparable to the ones reported for FeSe [50,56,57]. Within the accuracy of our measurement we therefore cannot confirm a significant change in superfluid density with S substitution. The red diamonds in Fig. 2 represent the superconducting transition temperature T_c determined by

30 mT TF- μSR . A more detailed pressure dependence of $T_c(p)$ was obtained with ACS (red squares in Fig. 2). Also shown in Fig. 2 are literature values for the structural transition temperature T_s of a sample with $x = 0.096$ [35]. $T_c(p)$ slightly decreases above 0.6 GPa where magnetic order sets in, leading to a local maximum and minimum in $T_c(p)$. This was observed before in FeSe [13,14] and $\text{FeSe}_{1-x}\text{S}_x$ [34,35]. In the latter case, however, the local maximum in $T_c(p)$ was attributed to the onset of only a small magnetic dome restricted to the low pressure region and disconnected from the high pressure magnetic phase around $p \approx 4$ GPa [33,35]. Magnetic shielding as observed by ACS [38] gets slightly reduced for pressures around the onset of magnetic order at 0.6 GPa. It is however very similar for low (< 0.6 GPa) and high (> 1.5 GPa) pressures. Combined with the ZF μSR results [Fig. 1(c)] this leads to a picture of initial competition between the magnetic and superconducting order that evolves into a noncompetitive microscopic coexistence at higher pressures where T_N and T_c increase simultaneously. Hence, the local maximum in T_c indicates the onset of magnetic order. Such a local maximum is also observed by our dc-magnetization measurements under pressure (Fig. 3) on four batches of high quality $\text{FeSe}_{1-x}\text{S}_x$ single crystals with well-defined $x = 0, 0.05, 0.09$, and 0.14 [38]. With increasing x , the pressure of the local maximum $p_{T_c^{\text{max}}}(x)$ decreases (inset Fig. 3). Similar behavior was reported in Refs. [34,35]. Xiang *et al.* [35] have also investigated the x dependence of the pressure $p_s(x)$ where the structural transition vanishes. As a function of x , $p_s(x)$ and $p_{T_c^{\text{max}}}(x)$ change at distinctly different rates. Therefore, it is clearly the coexistence and competition of magnetism and superconductivity rather than the suppression of the nematic order which governs the nonmonotonic variation of $T_c(p)$.

The phase diagram presented in Fig. 2 looks qualitatively very similar to the one of FeSe [13,14,58] in many respects. With increasing pressure, the structural phase transition gets suppressed while T_c is moderately increased. At the critical pressure p_c , long range magnetic order sets in and T_c exhibits a local maximum. The magnetic order initially competes with the superconducting order leading to a reduction of T_c . After a local minimum in T_c the competition vanishes as T_N and T_c increase simultaneously with pressure. However, there are also significant differences between $\text{FeSe}_{1-x}\text{S}_x$ and FeSe. The critical pressure p_c is ~ 0.3 GPa lower than in FeSe for $x \approx 0.11$. The rates of increase with pressure of the magnetic transition temperature T_N and the ordered magnetic moment are smaller though. In contrast, the rate of increase in T_c is bigger. This means that the phase diagram of $\text{FeSe}_{1-x}\text{S}_x$ is not just shifted to lower pressures with respect to FeSe but also experiences some significant modifications. This can be phenomenologically explained by the fact that isovalent substitution is not fully equivalent to hydrostatic pressure. Matsuura *et al.* [33] have shown that the reduction of the lattice constants by little less than 10% sulfur substitution is comparable to the one for 0.3 GPa

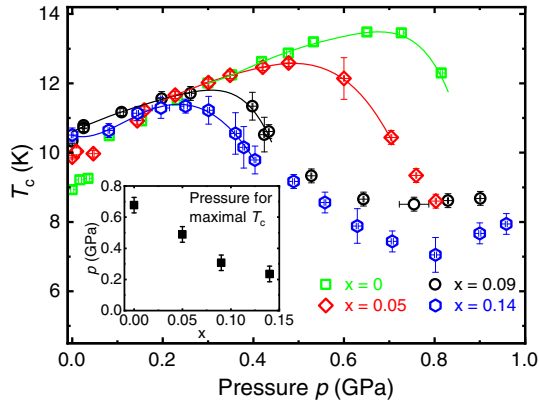


FIG. 3. Pressure dependence of the superconducting onset transition temperature T_c for four different batches of $\text{FeSe}_{1-x}\text{S}_x$ single crystals. The solid lines are guides to the eye. Inset: Change of pressure for the maximal T_c as a function of sulfur content x .

hydrostatic pressure. This matches well with our observed shift in the onset pressure p_c of magnetism. The chalcogen height, however, which is known to have a significant effect on superconductivity [18,24,59], gets increased by pressure and decreased by S substitution. Additionally, the different electronegativities of the different chalcogenides lead to a change in the density of states near the Fermi level [60]. In this regard, future measurements with higher sulfur content are highly desirable to check whether the magnetic dome can be shifted all the way down to ambient pressure like indicated for thin films of $\text{FeSe}_{1-x}\text{S}_x$ [61]. The shift of the local maximum in T_c (inset of Fig. 3) implies the possibility of a magnetic and superconducting sample at ambient pressure for $x \geq 0.2$. Such a sample would allow more in-depth investigations of the here observed magnetism coexisting with superconductivity. This might shine more light on the influence or lack thereof of magnetism and nematicity on superconductivity.

An important question to discuss is why previous studies on $\text{FeSe}_{1-x}\text{S}_x$ did not detect the extended dome of magnetic order above 0.6 GPa reported in this work. A general problem, especially for measurements under pressure, is certainly the small value of the ordered moment (order of magnitude of tenths of μ_B per iron for FeSe [14,62]). In the case of FeSe, initial studies using, for example, electrical resistivity measurements and ^{57}Fe Moessbauer spectroscopy [11] or ^{77}Se -NMR [17], failed to detect static magnetic order. In fact, it was a μSR study that for the first time unambiguously detected the magnetic order [13] with Moessbauer spectroscopy and NMR following much later [63,64]. Understandably, non-volume-sensitive techniques like electrical resistivity measurements [33,35] can easily miss transitions that do not affect the full volume of the sample and that might additionally be rather broad. More challenging to explain are the difficulties in detecting the magnetic transition for local probes like

^{77}Se -NMR [65]. Two possible explanations are (1) a magnetic structure that produces fields which nearly cancel at the Se sites, and (2) the different time windows of NMR and μSR . In the latter case, the magnetic structure would be static on the time scale of μSR but still dynamic for NMR. Interestingly, in FeSe, the second-order structural transition associated with nematic order is suppressed with pressure but a first order structural transition emerges at $p \approx 1.5$ GPa and persists up to 5.8 GPa [63,66]. In $\text{FeSe}_{1-x}\text{S}_x$, however, a structural phase transition was found at ambient and high pressures (4.9 GPa, where a magnetic dome was detected with electrical resistivity measurements) but not in the intermediate pressure region [33,65]. As we observe magnetism in the intermediate pressure region, this might imply different types of magnetic order. One that is related to the first order structural transition and measurable with electrical resistivity and another one that exists without structural transition and is more difficult to detect. The first order structural transition might be present in a small pressure region at low pressures in $\text{FeSe}_{1-x}\text{S}_x$, too. This could explain the small magnetic dome reported in Ref. [35]. Finally, we discuss the role of sample quality. The sample used for the presented μSR measurements has a sulfur content ranging between $x = 0.07$ and 0.14 and contains some excess iron. This is however unlikely to explain the different findings. Excess iron was also present in early studies of FeSe [8,13,14], but has not negated the validity of local probe results. The spread in sulfur content can broaden features like the local maximum in T_c due to a distribution of transition temperatures and their pressure dependencies. But it cannot account for an overall shift of such a feature. Furthermore, the existence and systematic shift of the local maximum in $T_c(p)$ is confirmed by our measurements on four high-quality single crystals with different x (Fig. 3) as well as by literature data [34,35].

In conclusion, we have shown that $\text{Fe}_{1+\delta}\text{Se}_{1-x}\text{S}_x$ with an average $x = 0.11$ exhibits a dome of long range magnetic order above a pressure $p \approx 0.6$ GPa. This magnetic phase extends over the intermediate pressure region between the previously reported low and high pressure magnetic domes [33,35]. Further, the magnetic order initially competes with the microscopically coexisting superconducting phase. This leads to a local maximum in T_c where the magnetic order sets in and a local minimum in T_c where the competition is strongest. At higher pressures (> 1.5 GPa), no competition is found. For increasing sulfur content, the local maximum in T_c , which coincides with the onset of magnetic order, shifts to lower pressures, roughly extrapolating to a putative superconducting and magnetic $\text{FeSe}_{1-x}\text{S}_x$ sample at ambient pressure for $x \geq 0.2$. The availability of such systems would spur detailed investigations of this newly found magnetism as well as of its interplay with nematicity and its relevance for superconductivity.

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